

Message Text

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG FR
SUBJ: CES GETS UNDERWAY WITH HENRI DURAND AS HEAD

REF: (A) PARIS 7552; (B) PARIS 6034

1. SUMMARY: GOF ANNOUNCED AFTER MARCH 15 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING THAT HENRY DURAND, A WELL QUALIFIED SCIENTIST WITH A RICH BACKGROUND IN INDUSTRY AS WELL AS EXPERIENCE ABROAD, WILL TAKE OVER AS PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSARIAT A L'ENERGIE SOLAIRE (CES). IN SUBSEQUENT PRESS CONFERENCE, DURAND SAID CES WILL EXIST OFFICIALLY FROM THE BEGINNING OF MAY AND GRADUALLY DEVELOP TO A 50-PERSON ORGANIZATION BY THE END OF 1979. ITS MAIN PURPOSE IS TO COORDINATE SOLAR ENERGY RESERACH BUDGET. END SUMMARY.

2. GOF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MARCH 15 FORMALIZED
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NOMINATION OF HENRI DURAND AS PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSARIAT A L'ENERGIE SOLAIRE (CES). THAT ORGANIZATION IS TO COMMENCE ITS ACTIVITIES OFFICIALLY AT THE BEGINNING OF MAY AND WILL BE FULLY OPERATIONAL LATE IN JUNE OR EARLY IN JULY, DURAND STATED AT PRESS CONFERENCE. FOR THE MOMENT, CES WILL HAVE ABOUT 15 PEOPLE, ALTHOUGH IT IS TO DEVELOP RATHER GRADUALLY INTO A 50-PERSON

ORGANIZATION BY THE END OF 1979. ITS STATED PURPOSE IS TO COORDINATE THE TOTALITY OF BUDGETS FOR SOLAR ENERGY RESEARCH WITHIN THE CIVILIAN GOVERNMENTAL COMMUNITY. DURAND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE AVERAGE ANNUAL INCREASE OF 30 PERCENT FOR THIS BUDGET WILL CONTINUE.

3. HENRI DURAND WAS BORN ON FEB 27, 1928 AND EDUCATED AT THE FASHIONABLE LYCEE SAINT-LOUIS AND THE PRESTIGIOUS HIGHER SCHOOL OF MINES IN PARIS, ECOLE NORMALE SUPERIEURE, CARNEGIE INSTITUTE IN PITTSBURGH, AND OXFORD UNIVERSITY. HE HOLDS THE DEGREE OF CIVIL MINING ENGINEER, MASTER OF SCIENCE AND DOCTOR OF SCIENCE. 1952-54 HE WAS A RESEARCH FELLOW AT ST. ANTHONY'S COLLEGE AT OXFORD. FOLLOWING THAT HE WAS DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR THE QUARTZ AND SILICON GROUP OF SAINT-GOBAIN, DIRECTOR 1960-63 OF THE SOMEA COMPANY IN MILAN, FOLLOWING WHICH HE WAS PROGRAM DIRECTOR AT THE RESEARCH CENTER OF THE COMPAGNIE GENERALE D'ELECTRICITE. HIS MORE RECENT EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN HEAVILY WEIGHTED TOWARDS APPLICATIONS. HE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE ADVISORY BOARD ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY (CCRDE), SOLAR ENERGY BOARD (COMES), SOLAR BATTERIES OF THE DGRST AND OF THE PHOTOVOLTAIC COMMITTEE OF THE CNRS. HIS MOST RECENT POSITION HAS BEEN DIRECTOR OF THE ELECTRONICS AND PHYSICS LABORATORY OF RADIOTECHNIQUE, A PHILLIPS SUBSIDIARY. HE HAS BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LAST POSITION IN THE FIELD OF SOLAR CELLS.

4. COMMENT: CHOICE OF DURAND SEEMS TO BE QUITE A GOOD ONE BECAUSE HIS HIGH LEVEL SCIENTIFIC BACKGROUND AND HIS YEARS OF PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN APPLYING SOLAR ENERGY SEEMS TO MAKE HIM VERY WELL QUALIFIED FOR THIS POSITION. ANY EVEN PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF HOW THIS WILL EFFECT OUR SOLAR ENERGY COOPERATION WILL DEPEND ON GOF REORGANIZATION FOLLOWING THE ELECTIONS' BUT, UP TO NOW WE FORESEE NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THIS COOPERATION. POSSIBLY, THE GOF MAY BECOME EVEN MORE INTERESTED IN GAINING ACCESS TO US SOLAR ENERGY TECHNOLOGY.
HARTMAN

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